

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
DALLAS DIVISION**

DAVID VASQUEZ-LARA,)	
ID # 43002-177,)	
Movant,)	No. 3:12-CV-2744-L (BH)
vs.)	No. 3:11-CR-0119-L
)	
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)	Referred to U.S. Magistrate Judge
Respondent.)	

FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATION

Pursuant to Special Order 3-251, this case has been automatically referred for findings, conclusions, and recommendation.

I. BACKGROUND

David Vasquez-Lara (“Movant”), an inmate currently incarcerated in the federal prison system, filed a *Memorandum of Points and Authorities in Support of Motion Pursuant to § 2255* (“Mot.”). The filing is liberally construed as a motion to vacate under 28 U.S.C. § 2255 challenging his federal conviction and sentence in Cause No. 3:11-CR-0119-L. The respondent is the United States of America (“Government”).

On May 4, 2011, Movant was charged by indictment with illegal re-entry after removal in violation of 8 U.S.C. § 1326(a), (b)(1). (*See* Indictment, doc. 1).¹ On September 8, 2011, Movant pled guilty without a plea agreement and was sentenced by the District Court to 36 months imprisonment on December 21, 2011. (*See* Judgment, doc. 29). Movant filed a notice of appeal on that same date. (doc. 31). Movant’s direct appeal is currently pending in the Fifth Circuit, and his direct appeal brief due August 24, 2012. *See United States v. Vasquez-Lara*, No. 11-11226 (5th Cir.).

¹ All document numbers refer to the docket number assigned in the underlying criminal action.

II. SCOPE OF RELIEF AVAILABLE UNDER § 2255

“Relief under 28 U.S.C. § 2255 is reserved for transgressions of constitutional rights and for a narrow range of injuries that could not have been raised on direct appeal and would, if condoned, result in a complete miscarriage of justice.” *United States v. Gaudet*, 81 F.3d 585, 589 (5th Cir. 1996) (citations and internal quotation marks omitted). It is well established that “a collateral challenge may not do service for an appeal.” *United States v. Shaid*, 937 F.2d 228, 231 (5th Cir. 1991) (*en banc*) (quoting *United States v. Frady*, 456 U.S. 152, 165 (1982)).

The Fifth Circuit has long held that motions to vacate under § 2255 are “not entitled to consideration on the merits” when the direct appeal remains pending. *See Jones v. United States*, 453 F.2d 351, 352 (5th Cir. 1972). District courts “should not entertain a § 2255 motion during the pendency of a direct appeal because ‘the disposition of the appeal may render the motion moot.’” *United States v. Soliz*, No. 3:98-CV-3058-P, 1999 WL 420614, *1 (N.D. Tex. June 22, 1999). Because movant’s appeal remains pending before the Fifth Circuit, this Court should not entertain his motion to vacate and should summarily dismiss it as provided by Rule 4 of the Rules Governing Section 2255 Proceedings for the United States District Courts without prejudice to re-filing once his conviction becomes final. *See Clay v. United States*, 537 U.S. 522, 525, 527 (2003) (a federal prisoner’s conviction is final for purposes of limitations either when the Supreme Court denies a petition for certiorari or, if a petition for certiorari is not filed, when the time for filing a petition expires).

III. RECOMMENDATION

The Court should **DISMISS WITHOUT PREJUDICE** the Motion to Vacate, Set Aside, or Correct Sentence brought pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255.

SIGNED this 14th day of August, 2012.


IRMA CARRILLO RAMIREZ
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR SERVICE AND
NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL/OBJECT**

A copy of these findings, conclusions and recommendation shall be served on all parties in the manner provided by law. Any party who objects to any part of these findings, conclusions and recommendation must file specific written objections within 14 days after being served with a copy. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1); Fed. R. Civ. P. 72(b). In order to be specific, an objection must identify the specific finding or recommendation to which objection is made, state the basis for the objection, and specify the place in the magistrate judge's findings, conclusions and recommendation where the disputed determination is found. An objection that merely incorporates by reference or refers to the briefing before the magistrate judge is not specific. Failure to file specific written objections will bar the aggrieved party from appealing the factual findings and legal conclusions of the magistrate judge that are accepted or adopted by the district court, except upon grounds of plain error. *See Douglass v. United Servs. Automobile Ass'n*, 79 F.3d 1415, 1417 (5th Cir. 1996).


IRMA CARRILLO RAMIREZ
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE